

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 03263 191600Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4653

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3263

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB ILO SZ

SUBJ: U S POSITION ON THE ILO

REF: STATE 159532

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON JEAN-PIERRE BONNY, SWISS DIR OF LABOR, BONNY TOLD ME THAT SWISS ARE PROFOUNDLY DISCOURAGED ABOUT FUTURE OF ILO FOLLOWING DISAPPOINTING OUTCOME OF ILC. BONNY NOTED THAT SWISS GOVT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ILO AS REFLECTION OF SWISS LABOR MOVEMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK. HE EMPHASIZED U S DEPARTURE, PROBABLY FOLLOWED BY THAT OF OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, WOULD MEAN TRAGIC END FOR IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL LABOR ACTIVITIES OF ILO AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE.

2. BONNY SAID THAT HE IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING THAT SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL HAVE PRESIDENT FURGLER ADDRESS PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER URGING U S NOT TO LEAVE. BONNY ASKED ON PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS FOR MY VIEW OF ADVISABILITY OF SUCH A SWISS APPEAL. BONNY STRESSED THAT HE BELIEVED FURGLER WOULD SEND LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER IF FURGLER BELIEVED IT WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE.

3. BONNY SAID HE HAD SEEN JULY 4 PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT
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BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WHILE IN GENEVA THAT MOST CABINET MEMBERS WANT TO REMAIN IN ILO. BONNY RECOGNIZED THAT LABOR AND MANAGEMENT VIEWS WILL ALSO WEIGH ON U S DECISION. BONNY, WHO WAS SENIOR SWISS REPRESENTATIVE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE, ALSO SAID HE FOUND U S MANAGEMENT DELEGATE AT GENEVA DISPLEASED WITH WAY ILC HAD GONE.

4. I SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE UNFORTUNATE FOR FURGLER TO COMMIT PRESTIGE OF HIS OFFICE IN MAKING APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER IF THE SUCCESS OF SUCH AN APPEAL IS IN DOUBT. BONNY THEN MENTIONED REPORTED INTENTION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO APPEAL TO U S TO REMAIN IN ILO. I NOTED THAT SWISS APPEAL IN CONTEXT OF EC EFFORT WOULD CLEARLY HAVE DIFFERENT ASPECT.

5. BONNY SAID HE WOULD GIVE MATTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT AGAIN BEFORE HE DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT TO RECOMMEND THAT FEDERAL COUNCIL MAKE APPEAL TO PRESIDENT. IN THIS CONNECTION BONNY SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL VIEWS I COULD GIVE HIM ON ADVISABILITY OF A FURGLER INITIATIVE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE WHETHER DEPT BELIEVES IT ADVISABLE TO DISCOURAGE BONNY FROM PURSUING HIS IDEA TO HAVE FURGLER APPEAL TO PRESIDENT TO REMAIN IN ILO, OR WHETHER I SHOULD LET HIS IDEA TAKE ITS COURSE.
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Message Attributes

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